

11 July 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Telephone Call from William Gleysteen
of State, 11 July 1977

1. Gleysteen phoned me on another matter but in the course of our conversation he took the opportunity to express his own view and the views of several others in the Department (he alluded to Habib) that they were opposed to my travel to China with George Bush. He said that the opposition was on two grounds:

- a. The reaction of the Soviet Union; and,
- b. My current position as NIO for China and my former assignment at the USLO, Peking.

He continued that the trip should not be on an ad hoc basis but should be based on a carefully thought out plan linked to overall US policy. He said that they might reexamine my going to China with Bush after Vance's trip to the PRC in August based on developments with China as a result of the trip.

2. I told Gleysteen that both he and the NSC had been informed of the possibility of my travel to China with Bush as early as February 1977 when Bush had first raised the matter with Ambassador Huang Chen. I said I had also cleared the trip through the highest levels here (DCI was informed on 16 May 1977 and approved, as has Mike Oksenberg of NSC). I said there was no thought of this being an ad hoc boondoggle and any trip I took would not be at variance with US policy.



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3. Gleysteen responded that it was up to me whether I elevated the matter to the DCI level with State and we left it there.

4. The State contention that my going to China would be an adverse signal to the Russians is, in my view, fallacious. The Russians knew I was in China and know I am back here as the China NIO.

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5. Since my accession to this NIO job the State Department has:

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b. Turned down my request to travel to Taiwan in the summer of 1976 because it would give "adverse signals to the PRC". I was allegedly too high level and too much of a factor on the China scene, according to them. It is interesting to note that since that time Dick Holbrooke, Assistant Secretary of EAP and Herb Horowitz, senior officer of INR for EA and China have both travelled to Taipei.

I do not recommend that any additional action be taken at this time. The Chinese here in Washington have told me that I should have no problems in going. When and if the approval from the Chinese comes through, George Bush will let me know and then we can decide on the next step.

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James R. Lilley
National Intelligence Officer
for China

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